

SNTO Information

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winding tunnels 4,400 and 4,430 feet long, each comprising two lanes. Ventilated by a semi-transversal system of ventilation and lighted by 900 sodium-vapour lamps these tunnels also contain numerous safety devices controlled automatically or at a distance from a centre situated just under four miles away. The building of this tunnel raised many problems; the actual site made a horizontal profile impossible. The volume of exhaust gases being proportional to the degree of slope, any increase in the gradient would have resulted in an enlargement of the section of the tunnel, costly and bulky ventilating plant, large service premises and increased overheads. The research carried out by the firm of engineering consultants Bonnard & Gardel, in co-operation with the builders of the tunnel, led to the adoption of a slope of 2.6% for one of the tunnels and 2.35% for the other, with different systems of ventilation. (OSEC)

Structure of employment in Swiss industry

In September, 1969 the 12,208 Swiss industrial firms registered with the Federal Statistics Bureau totalled 882,414 employees. Compared with the same month of the previous year, the number of firms had fallen off by 461, while that of employees had risen by 5,447. The total number comprised 567,592 Swiss and 314,822 foreigners (i.e. a good third). Compared with 1968, in the industrial sector there were some 5,000 fewer Swiss and 10,600 more foreigners. The machinery industry recorded the largest number of employees (265,000), followed by the "Metallurgy and Metal-Workers" group (121,000) and watchmaking (73,000). These three branches thus provided employment for over half the total number of industrial employees. There was also a very large labour force in the clothing industry (66,000), in textiles (63,300) and in chemical factories (61,500). Except for chemicals and watchmaking, these groups make

the largest call on foreign workers. Women, numbering some 257,000, accounted for 27% of the whole of the personnel employed in industrial firms. (OSEC)

Insurance in Switzerland

The Swiss devote over half their expenditure on insurance (57%) to life assurance and the protection of dependents. On an average every Swiss set aside a sum of 1,019 francs (U.S. \$237) to it in 1968, which represents a total of 6.2 billion francs (U.S. \$1.5 billion). If health insurance (15%) and accident insurance (13%) are added, it can be seen that about 5/6ths of the expenditure devoted to insurance in Switzerland concerned the insurance of people. For 1968 this amounted to a total of 9.2 billion francs (U.S. \$2.1 billion), i.e. over 1,600 francs (U.S. \$372) per head of the population. By way of comparison, it should be pointed out that Switzerland's total military expenditure including civil defence, is barely a fifth of this amount. (OSEC)

First public issue in the Swiss Watchmaking Industry

The biggest Swiss chronograph and sports timer factory, Heuer Leonidas Co. Ltd., at Bienne, has just floated a public issue on the Swiss capital market. During the last five years, this fast expanding firm has recorded an average annual increase in turnover of 25%. This rate is expected to continue in the years to come. The new funds destined to develop research and production will also enable the firm to set up new sales companies abroad as well as constitute a suitable reserve of land for future expansion. (OSEC)

125th anniversary of a Swiss chocolate factory

In order to commemorate its 125th anniversary, the Swiss chocolate factory Lindt & Sprüngeli Co. Ltd. published a booklet devoted to the history of the firm. A number of engravings

and historic quotations take the reader back to the early days of the Swiss chocolate industry. An interesting account is given of the path trod since those heroic times when chocolate was a luxury product made entirely by hand down to the present day when it is a mass-consumption manufactured on fully automatic machines. We see the growth of the firm down through the years, the evolution of wrapping and advertising. We see, too, how five generations of Sprüngeli's have made this small family concern a big firm known all over the world today, exporting to all continents and with a turnover topping the S.Fr. 200 million mark (U.S. \$46.5 million). (OSEC)

SNTO INFORMATION

THE GREAT WORLD THEATRE

Einsiedeln (SNTO):—On the monumental square in front of the world famous abbey church the players of Einsiedeln are going to perform this summer once again the well-known play by the Spanish poet Don Pedro Calderon de la Barca. Calderon, poet to the Spanish royal court, in 1675 put this play into Seville's Corpus Christi procession. But across the ages he appeals directly to us even today. For nearly five decades the inhabitants of Einsiedeln have been performing every five years throughout the summer "The Great World Theatre of Einsiedeln". All the performers are lay actors. Their names do not appear on any programme and yet they manage to achieve an impressive unity. The Great World Theatre of 1970 in Einsiedeln is an allegoric play about human life on the world's stage. It deals with success and failure, with transitoriness and eternity. On the square in front of the great abbey church the Master calls the world and men to the great play which is life. His words, "Every part can lift you up", are the play's spiritual focus, the great wisdom of life. The Beggar becomes the touchstone for all men. However, only Wisdom stands the test. The others send the Beggar away, Wisdom welcomes him. These two play their parts best and are permitted to sit down at the Master's table, to eat his bread and to behold his face without fear. The Rich Man sinks into the depths of eternal torments. He did not pass the test but heaped guilt upon guilt. The King and the Beauty and the Boisterous Farmer may rise to the light upon purification. — Erwin Kohlund is responsible for the staging and management; the music is by Heinrich Sutermeister while costumes and props are designed by Toni Businger. More than 500 people participate in

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the play, mostly inhabitants of Ensiedeln. The performances take place every Wednesday and Saturday night from June 13 to September 26.

TOURIST NEWS

The next Grand Lake Night Festival in Lucerne will take place this year on Saturday, June 27 or, if it has to be postponed, on July 4.

The International June Festival in Zurich will be the occasion for a big exhibition of the art collection of Nordrhein-Westfalen, to be shown at the Art Museum until the end of July.

The Zurich Opera presents on June 28 and 30 two performances of the musical drama "Danton's Death" by Gottfried von Einem. The Zurich Dramatic Theatre will offer performances by guest companies from London, Brussels and New York.

In Berne there will be Art Weeks from June 7 to 27. They will include an attractive array of operatic performances, concerts and special exhibitions.

The "Festival International de Lausanne" will present concerts and ballet performances, followed by five evenings of opera. Between June 11 and 20 the Prague National Theatre will play with its complete company of orchestra, soloists, choir and ballet, a total of three hundred performers, "The Bartered Bride" by Smetana, "Don Giovanni" by Mozart in the Italian version, "Jenufa" by Janacek and "Dalibor" by Smetana.

At Zurich's Tonhalle concert hall a series of six important orchestra concerts have already started. Two "musica viva" performances have been added to them. Three further festive concerts are scheduled by the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, one of them at the Fraumünster Church.

At Neuchâtel the Ethnographic Museum is able to show this year "Art of the South Seas" (L'art océanien).

The Lausanne Museum is showing for the third time a "Salon international des Galeries-pilotes" from June 19 to October 4 and the Lucerne Art Museum is presenting the "Young Italian Avant-Garde" from May 30 to July 5.

In Basle the World Music Festival of the International Society for New Music is going to be held from June 19 to 27.

In Geneva the "Theatre de verdure" hidden in a small forest at the Parc de la Grange, presents summer performances.

The visitors at the thermal springs resort of Baden for whom the St. Gall Municipal Theatre company will play, starting on July 2, will be able to enjoy outdoor performances at the Kurpark, weather permitting.

In Basle large audiences will be able to enjoy the operetta "The Beggar Student" by Millöcker from June 13 to July 4.

SURPRISES AT THE SWISS NATIONAL MUSEUM

Zurich (SNT0):—Due to the rearrangement of several collections some remarkable surprises await the visitor to the Swiss National Museum, one of Zurich's most important sights, located between the railroad station and a magnificent garden area. The earliest eras, those of the stone age civilisations, are represented by a stone casket tomb completely rebuilt in the original, as found in the canton of Aargau. A splendid pageant of life in Roman times is next to the newly arranged hall exhibiting monuments of early medieval civilisations that illustrate the period of the Great Migration. In a festively lit hall there is precious church property of the Gothic period — stained glass, sacristy treasures, stone and wood sculptures, altar paintings, an important manuscript on parchment, a tomb — all united to form an impressive picture of that civilisation. A large wall decoration dating back to the 14th century with delightful pictures of the months represents the age of knighthood. The completely rearranged collection of uniforms culminates in the exhibition of the Cantonal Army of the Canton of Zurich of the first half of the 19th century. A large number of figures form a small military parade of wearers of these uniforms. — Those ambitious

enough to climb to the museums top floor will be enchanted by the wide showcases which demonstrate in scenic form the elegance of ages past. One can look into comfortable living rooms, see a great variety of figures in the costumes of bygone areas and observe their way of life. One should, however, also spare the time to go down to the basement, a large part of which has been newly decorated. Ancient trades and crafts are shown here true to life. Who remembers today what it looked like in an old village smithy, in a carriage builder's workshop or in a cellar where vineyard owners pressed and kept their wine? Young people may certainly learn a lot here.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RIGGISBERG

Riggisberg (SNT0): — Glowing silks from the 17th and 18th centuries are on exhibit at Riggisberg, southwest of Berne, until October. The Abegg Foundation presents in this temporary exhibition valuable chasubles, a dress of the Virgin Mary radiant in blue and silver, carpets richly decorated with figures, wall coverings, as well as a pastel-coloured length of silk for a shepherd's scene of Queen Marie Antoinette as highlights of this multifarious show. In the summer of 1969 this new beautifully located museum had more than 18,500 visitors.

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